Evidence Synthesis Infrastructure Collaborative (ESIC) planning process:
Interim Report

Global SDG Synthesis Coalition (GSDGSC)
Building a Global Evidence Synthesis Community (BGESC)
Pan-African Collective for Evidence (PACE)
Center for Rapid Evidence Synthesis (ACRES)

Working group 5:	Stage 4a report:	Last updated:	Consultation window:
Capacity Sharing	**Solution prioritization**	**23 May 2025**	**26– 30 May 2025**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document proposes **ten high-impact solutions** for incorporation in the menu of options for funder investment:

1. **ESIC Knowledge Hub**: A platform to achieve system interoperability and improve discoverability of evidence synthesis and knowledge translation (KT) resources.
2. **KTai**: An AI-driven application to automate the knowledge translation process.
3. **Regional Collaborating Centers**: Regional hubs to strengthen capacity for evidence synthesis and knowledge translation.
4. **Mentorship and Train-the-Trainer Programs**: Structured programs to enhance skills among synthesis producers and evidence intermediaries, linked to regional hubs.
5. **Continuous Professional Development Modules**: Ongoing education to maintain competencies in evidence synthesis and KT.
6. **Competency Frameworks**: Standards for skills and behaviours related to evidence synthesis and knowledge translation.
7. **Curriculum for UN National Evaluation Capacity Development (NECD) and other national government training agencies**.
8. **Global Evidence Synthesis Innovation Fund (GESIF)**: Funding for innovation in evidence synthesis and KT initiatives.
9. **Funders Forum**: A mechanism for aligning investments in evidence synthesis.
10. **Capacity Sharing Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) System**: A system to assess the impact of capacity-sharing initiatives across ESIC.

The prioritization of solutions was conducted through a two-pass method involving individual assessments and group discussions. In the **first pass**, 16 working group members rated the proposed solutions on a scale of 1 to 10 based on their opinions of impact and effort required for implementation. This assessment led to the identification of 11 high-impact solutions. In the **second pass**, further discussions evaluated each solution based on criteria such as sequencing, equity, and alignment with funder priorities. The result was a consensus on the final ten high-impact solutions for inclusion in the funding menu.

The report also includes a **Roadmap Integration Table** that outlines each solution's problem statement, expected outcomes, success indicators, and potential synergies with solutions proposed by other WGs in stage 3. This table serves as a guide for understanding how each solution can contribute to transformative changes across the evidence synthesis ecosystem.

The report concludes with presentation of the resource needs for operationalizing the proposed solutions. These include personnel, tools, training, citizen engagement and other requirements.

1. INTRODUCTION

In Stage 3, we proposed the following eighteen (18) solutions (in no particular order) to form part of the ESIC capacity sharing infrastructure:

(i)	ESIC Peer-To-Peer Forum	(x) Competency Frameworks
(ii)	Knowledge Translation AI (KTai)	(xi) Continuous Professional Development Modules
(iii)	ESIC Knowledge Hub	(xii) Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)
(iv)	Living horizon and environmental scanning system	(xiii) Curricula for UN national evaluation capacity development
(v)	Global federated data platform	(xiv) Funders Forum
(vi)	Evidence Synthesis Endorsement Board	(xv) Global Evidence Synthesis Innovation Fund
(vii)	Mentorship and Train-the-Trainer Programs	(xvi) ESIC Research Gateway
(viii)	ESIC Synthesis Week	(xvii) Consortia-based licensing agreements
(ix)	Regional collaborating centres with country nodes	(xviii) Capacity sharing monitoring, evaluation, and learning system

Our objective in this report is to identify **the most impactful solutions for inclusion in the menu of options for funder investment**. This report is organized as follows: Section 2 describes the deliberative process used by the WG to arrive at consensus around the recommended solution bundle (10 high-priority solutions). In section 3 we present the Roadmap integration matrix for these 10 solutions. This matrix details the logical connections between problem statements we identified in Report 1 (the capability gaps), each proposed solution, and how, in measurable terms, the solution is expected to contribute to transformative changes in how evidence synthesis is produced and used. Section 4 then outlines the assumptions about resources (people, tools, training, contracts, travel, citizen engagement, publication and promotion activities) needed to operationalize each solution. This is a precursor to the stage 4b report, in which detailed resource requirements will be quantified, and the cost for each solution presented.

2. METHODS

Prioritization of the 18 proposed solutions was done using a two-pass method. This approach enabled both individual assessment and group validation, incorporating ratings and deliberation:

First Pass: Individual Impact-effort Assessment

In the first phase, a structured impact-effort assessment was conducted using a survey (Google Form). This survey was completed individually by 16 WG members. Each respondent evaluated all 18 solutions using 1-10 rating scale for both impact and effort (1 = low, 10 = high). The core definitions used for the survey were:

- Benefit: The ability of the solution to enable deliberate and seamless exchange of skills, knowledge, and capacity-strengthening resources globally, with the aim of improving expertise in evidence synthesis and knowledge translation.
- Impact: The magnitude and meaningfulness of the benefits a solution would bring if successfully implemented.
- Effort: The resources (time, funding, manpower, etc.) required to implement the solution.

Based on the aggregated scores from the 16 respondents, 11 high-impact solutions were identified. These were taken on for second pass assessment.

Second Pass prioritization and validation:

This phase involved in-depth group discussion and application of additional qualitative criteria. Each solution was reassessed via structured discussions about each of the following:

- **Sequencing / Timing**: Are there timing or dependency issues that could impact the solution's feasibility or delay implementation?
- **Equity**: Does this solution contribute to advancing equity?
- **Value Assessment**: Does the solution address urgent needs, stakeholder demand, or have legacy potential?
- **Alignment:** Is the solution aligned with funder priorities or existing platforms?
- **Systems Approach:** Will the solution create synergies or amplify impact across the broader evidence synthesis ecosystem?

Each criterion was assessed using a Yes/No response. Based on the discussions, the priority level of each solution was then reassessed as either: ▲ Upgrade, ▼ Downgrade, or ▬ Stay (no change). Following the second-pass discussions, none of the 11 shortlisted solutions were downgraded.

Final validation of the solution bundle:

The result of the second-pass prioritization was documented and shared with all WG members for review and final confirmation. Feedback confirmed group consensus around the 11 shortlisted solutions. However, 1 solution—Global Federated Data Platform—was identified as significantly aligned to the mandate of another WG. After discussion, the Global Federated Data Platform was transferred, so it could be embedded as part of the data sharing solutions handled by WG2.

The results of the impact-effort assessment (first-pass prioritization) for all 18 solutions proposed in the Stage 3 report is provided in the Annex.

3. ROADMAP INTEGRATION TABLE

The following 10 solutions emerged as the final shortlisted **high-impact solutions for recommended inclusion in the menu of options for funder investment**. They are not listed here in order of priority:

1. ESIC Knowledge Hub

2. Knowledge Translation AI (KTai)
3. Regional collaborating centers with country nodes
4. Mentorship and Train the Trainer Programs
5. Continuous Professional Development Modules
6. Competency Frameworks for evidence synthesis production and knowledge translation
7. Curriculum for UN national evaluation capacity development (NECD)
8. Global Evidence Synthesis Innovation Fund (GESIF)
9. Funders Forum
10. Capacity sharing monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) system

The Roadmap integration matrix for each of these solutions is presented below. This matrix provides the following information:

Problem: The problem the solution is intended to address or resolve.

Solution: Description of the solution by type: (a) Infrastructure (tools or technology / platforms, ongoing products); (b) Process (methods; training; learning; sharing; convening); or (c) Project (time-limited activities generating outputs).

Innovation: A statement answering why the solution is considered innovative.

Expected outcome: The expected changes or benefits to result from implementing the solution.

Success indicator: An indicator of what success would look like in 1 to 5 years if the solution was implemented.

Synergies: Inter-relationships between the solution and solutions proposed by other WGs in stage 3. Type of inter-relationships considered are: (a) Dependency (development or implementation of the solution is reliant upon another WG solution); (b) Complementarity (the solution is helpful or reinforcing in operation. It will have a symbiotic relationship to a solution from another WG.

Note about synergies: We recognize that in addition to inter-WG relationships, relationships also exist among the 10 solutions proposed by WG5. For example, the same human resources for developing continuous professional development modules, can be used for competency framework development. **Both inter-WG solution relationships and intra-WG solution relationships have implications for costing of the final menu of ESIC options**. These issues will have to be disentangled during stage 4b.

Roadmap Integration Table

Problem	Solution	Expected outcome	Success indicators SMART	Synergies
- Existing platforms for sharing resources, tools and knowledge for capacity strengthening for evidence synthesis production and knowledge translation are operated by varied institutions with limited outreach in relation to varied sectors, countries or regions.	Name: **ESIC Knowledge Hub** Description: A broad resource-curating website to function as a centralized access point to high-quality, relevant content about evidence synthesis production and use, with no excluded regions or countries. The Hub will be set up to improve discoverability and interoperability across systems Type: Infrastructure Innovation: No website currently provides seamless integration across evidence synthesis platforms owned and operated by multiple institutions.	- Improved access to comprehensive, regularly updated synthesis and knowledge translation tools and resources for the full range of users. - Streamlined access to multiple databases, eliminating the need for multiple platform logins, for evidence producers and intermediaries from diverse disciplines. - Enhanced user experience through user-friendly functionalities such embedded automatic language translation to allow searching in language of choice. -Equity and inclusiveness by integrating countries and regions that otherwise would be excluded.	- Full interoperability across 90% of ESIC partner websites and databases, achieved within 12 months of project initiation. - Within 12 months, a functional ESIC website is online, with basic elements (information on ES, links to partners, ESIC roadmap etc) and update/maintenance contracts in place. - A plan for future improvements and features integration (AI-tools; databases,) is developed and agreed on by ESIC and IT contractors. - Within 24 months, existing ES trainings and recommended tools have been mapped, curated, and integrated/linked on the website; automatic translation has been employed and most important pages professionally translated.	Dependency: None Complementarity: WG1: Regional Demand-Side Secretariats; Implementation Support to Evidence Intermediaries; Evidence Co-Design Labs; Question Repositories or Banks WG3: AI-Enabled Knowledge Tools (EM2, EduLens, Impact AI, Help Desk) WG4: Evidence Synthesis Academy
- Absence of AI-powered solutions for translation of evidence into action - Limited expertise and tools for packaging evidence for decisions, in some settings. - Limited citizen[1] engagement strategies to make synthesized evidence actionable	Name: **Knowledge Translation AI (KTai)** Description: AI-driven application for automating the process of translating findings from an evidence synthesis into useable messages and formats for practice, policy, or decision-making. Type: Infrastructure Innovation: Harnesses new AI technology to automate the knowledge translation process. The tool will also provide the ability for citizens to view, vote, or comment on a policy-relevant evidence summary, thereby stimulating citizen engagement to make synthesized evidence actionable.	-Faster and more accurate workflows achieved by evidence intermediaries. -Usability and reach of evidence syntheses improved - Improved communication of evidence to different societal groups	- Automation of key aspects of the knowledge translation process - 40% reduction in the time required to deliver insights from synthesized evidence[2]. - Uptake in engagement of citizens in roles as advocates for evidence.	Dependency: WG3: This application is dependent upon an appropriate AI solution. WG4: This application is dependent upon the development of methods for rapid production of evidence summaries from systematic reviews and other syntheses.

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[1] We use the term 'citizen' to keep the focus on the individual, but it does not imply formal citizenship status as determined by a government

[2] Assumption underlying expected change - AI can improve worker performance by nearly 40% (https://www.moveworks.com/us/en/resources/blog/what-is-ai-workflow-automation-impacts-business-processes)

Problem	Solution	Expected outcome	Success indicators SMART	Synergies
- Uneven capacity to synthesizing different types of evidence (e.g., economic, qualitative, effectiveness, across jurisdictions - Lack of incentives in some research system to engage in evidence synthesis production and knowledge translation.	Name: **Mentorship and Train the Trainer Programs** Description: Structured and interdisciplinary mentorship and train the trainer programs Type: Process Innovation: Focuses on interdisciplinary mentorship, which is uncommon, but essential for evidence synthesis to address complex societal problems. Built around regional collaborating centres with country nodes.	- Increased number of skilled evidence synthesis, producers and intermediaries in, especially in underrepresented regions. - Tailored and ongoing support to early-career synthesis producers and intermediaries.	Within 12 months, at least 30 evidence synthesis trainers and mentors (balanced regarding gender and country income) trained to deliver and supporting, training and mentorship across regions.	Dependency: None Complementarity: WG5: Regional collaborating centers with country nodes WG1: Regional Demand-Side Secretariats WG1: Implementation Support to Evidence Intermediaries WG3: Evidence Co-Design Labs WG2: Region-specific training and localized data hubs WG4: All Methods and process innovations.
Lack of continuing professional development for emerging methods and innovations (e.g., AI tools)	Name: **Continuous Professional Development Modules** Description: Continuing professional development (CPD) modules for maintaining core competencies Type: Process (methods) Innovation: CPD approaches will reflect technological advancements in the synthesis field, and evolving learning needs.	- Increased number of professionals with recognized skills in in evidence synthesis and knowledge translation. - Increased number of training programs on cutting-edge of methodological topics.	100% of ESIC-affiliated training institutions include CPD modules for evidence synthesis and knowledge translation in their programme offerings.	Dependency: WG4: The modules are dependent upon the new and innovative methods to be developed Complementarity: WG1: Regional Demand-Side Secretariats; Implementation Support to Evidence Intermediaries
- No globally recognized set of skills, behaviours, and attributes specific to evidence synthesis, - Inconsistent training in evidence synthesis, and evidence-informed decision-making.	Name: **Competency Frameworks** Description: Competency Frameworks developed for: evidence synthesis production and knowledge translation. Type: Process (methods). Innovation: Establishes universal standards and expectations for	Training providers align curricula with verified frameworks, ensuring quality and relevance.	Within 12 months, have developed two ESIC-approved frameworks describing the competencies required for professional ES production and knowledge translation developed and translated into widely spoken languages.	Dependency: None Complementarity: WG4: Academy of Evidence Synthesis

Problem	Solution	Expected outcome	Success indicators SMART	Synergies
	professionals in evidence synthesis and knowledge translation roles.			
- Limited systematic approach to cross-learning and sharing of best practices for evidence synthesis - Weak incentives for transdisciplinary and cross-sectoral evidence synthesis collaborations, therefore Evidence is produced in silos across sectors and fields of study.	Name: **Regional collaborating centers with country nodes** Description: Hub-and spoke learning model to strengthen capacity for evidence synthesis production and intermediation across regions and sectors. Regional hubs will have will offer a network evidence synthesis competency-based trainers and will be supported by thematic communities of practice anchored in country nodes. Open to evidence synthesis producers and intermediaries working in all sectors. Type: Process & Infrastructure Innovation: Supports south-south, north-south collaboration. Enables evidence synthesis training and development that integrates knowledge and experience from varied sectors and regions.	- Enhanced skills in synthesis methodologies across different sectors - Enhanced national and regional capacity on ES through decentralized leadership - Country level institutions lead context relevant synthesis and policy engagement	- Within 12 months, have identified at least one suitable partner/entity/institute to host a regional ES collaboration center and signed an MoU that includes work plans, mission, governance structure, funding, etc. - Within 5 years, have established operating centers in four main regions with annual work and sustainable funding plans, implementing partners, pools of regional ES trainers, networks of government partners and other regional ES producers and users, an active community of practice.	Dependency: None Complementarity: WG1: Regional Demand-Side Secretariats WG4 - Partnerships with regional evidence networks
Gaps in evidence synthesis education and training	Name: **Curriculum for UN national evaluation capacity development (NECD), National Schools of Government, or Training Institutions for Public Administration**. Description: Development of training curriculum and materials on evidence synthesis to be incorporated in the UN national evaluation capacity development (NECD) training modules	- National evaluation systems integrate evidence synthesis into formal career paths. - Increased government uptake and ownership of evidence-informed decision-making practices. - Creates a benchmark for incorporating synthesis into evaluation systems	Within 12 months after adoption of the competency framework, a technical evidence synthesis training curriculum and training materials developed by synthesis and education experts, offered to UN agencies, NSGs/civil servants training institutions, and other evaluation/synthesis/research/ training entities for delivery and/or incorporation into their training offerings.	Dependency: None

Problem	Solution	Expected outcome	Success indicators SMART	Synergies
	and in National Schools of Government or Training Institutions for Public Administration. Type: Process Innovation: Pins evidence synthesis within the NECD framework thereby ensuring its legitimacy and sustainability. Mainstreams evidence synthesis in national training systems.			
Insufficient funding for evidence generation and application	Name: **Global Evidence Synthesis Innovation Fund (GESIF)** Description: A global pooled funding for development and testing of innovative evidence synthesis and knowledge translation Type: Process Innovation: Funds experimentation and innovation in evidence synthesis methods, processes, and tools. Stimulates collaborative and south led innovation. Encourages integration and scaling what works.	- Increased number of innovative evidence synthesis tools, methods, and processes developed and piloted. - Increased participation by underrepresented institutions and regions (especially from the global South and vulnerable settings) -Enhanced resource available to support evidence synthesis and translations	GESIF established and operational. At least one call for proposal opened.	Dependency: None Complementarity: WG4: Cross-sectoral collaborations through initiatives such as joint funding calls
- Each player in the evidence synthesis ecosystem has their own specific capacity-sharing priorities	Name: **Funders Forum** Description: Coordination platform for funders to align evidence synthesis investments (from the Global Innovation Fund and other sources) to achieve ESIC goals and maximize societal impact Type: Process Innovation: Fills in a coordination gap to ensure evidence synthesis investments	- Reduced duplication and fragmentation in evidence synthesis investments. - Increased alignment of resources with shared priorities	- Funders Forum with active members representing global, regional, and national donors established within 12 months - Within 15 months, at least one joint initiative of the Forum implemented.	Dependency: None Complementarity WG4: Cross-sectoral collaborations through initiatives such as joint funding calls

Problem	Solution	Expected outcome	Success indicators SMART	Synergies
	that maximizes ESIC goals and societal impact.			
- No systematic approach to cross-learning and sharing of best practices for evidence synthesis - No assessment of effectiveness of existing training programs in evidence use. - Inconsistent feedback loops to evidence users when evidence is changing/evolving, or when there is evidence uncertainty	Name: **Capacity sharing monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) system** Description: A system to assess the impact of capacity-sharing initiatives across different levels of the ESIC collaboration Type: Process & infrastructure Innovation: Tracks equity of participation and impact in capacity sharing activities, not just activity undertaken. Enables adaptive responses to ESIC capacity sharing.	- ESIC capacity sharing activities are informed by evidence and their impact assessed. - Increased power sharing with, and supporting leadership from institutions in the Global South, and from groups most affected by inequities.	- The MEL system is adopted by 60% of ESIC partner institutions. 60% of ES capacity investments informed by findings from the MEL system.	Dependency: All WG solutions Complementarity: All WG solutions

4. RESOURCE NEEDS ASSUMPTION

The assumptions we have made about how the solutions will be operationalized, and the resources required for implementation are presented below:

ESIC Knowledge Hub

People: Knowledge Manager / Librarian. Evidence Curation Specialist. Metadata & Indexing Assistant. Evidence Synthesis Expert-Trainers. Knowledge Translation Specialist-Trainers. Science Writer / Editor. IT Platform Developer / Web Admin. Data Analyst / Visualization Expert. Communications & Dissemination Officer. Stakeholder Engagement Specialist.

Tools: Data management tools. Data sharing tools. AI subscriptions. Computer hardware

Contracts: Website design/development. Marketing support. Search engine optimization and indexing design. Multilingual translation service. Maintenance.

Knowledge Translation AI (KTai)

People: Product Manager / KTai Lead. Policy Advisor / Evidence Translation Strategist. AI/ML Engineer (NLP Specialist). Data Scientist (Evidence Domain). Software Developer / Full-Stack Engineer. UX/UI Designer. Knowledge Translation Expert (Human Oversight). Science Writer / Policy Brief Editor. Civic Engagement Coordinator. Digital Communications & Content Manager. Administrative & Documentation Officer

Tools: Data management tools. Data sharing tools. AI subscriptions.

Contracts: IT Maintenance contracts.

Evidence Synthesis Curriculum for integration in UN national evaluation capacity development (NECD) activities and programmes of National Schools of Government and others…

People: Evidence synthesis experts, education and online learning experts / academics, translators, project support and administrative. Website developers. Staff for day-to-day management. Communication lead.

Tools: Meeting software (MS Teams, Zoom), online collaboration software (e.g., Microsoft Office suite). Digital learning platforms. Curriculum design software.

Contracts: IT maintenance contracts.

Capacity development: Short courses on curriculum design, evaluation practice, and evidence synthesis. Regional workshops or webinars. Certification programs.

Citizen engagement: Consultations to tailor curriculum. Feedback on language, accessibility, and relevance.

Travel: Convenings with UN agencies. Potential in-person workshop on curriculum and training material coordination and finalization. Travel for pilot testing and workshops and for curriculum co-design with country stakeholders.

Continuous Professional Development Modules

People: - Experts to develop courses. Website developers. Staff for day-to-day management (e.g., answer user questions, process fees). Advisor on professional standards and accreditation. Instructional Designer. Communication experts. Administrator

Tools: Solution envisaged using existing platforms to share the modules. Platform to host CPD, digital certification tools, interactive content software. Website domain fee. Website management software. E-certification tool. Website domain.

Contracts: Learning platform customization or development (could be e-learning). Translation and localization services. Digital marketing services.

Capacity development: Regional facilitators or trainers to support localized delivery. Accrediting body engagement (training national academic staff to align with competency standards).
Citizen engagement: Feedback on platform usability, content relevance

Funders Forum
People: Fundraising and partnerships experts and specialists. Donor Engagement experts. Policy alignment experts. Communication experts.
Tools: Meeting platforms (Zoom, MS Teams), real-time polling tools, shared digital whiteboards. Computer/monitors for staff. Virtual collaboration tools

Regional collaborating centers with country nodes
People: Regional directors or advisors per center. Staff to oversee day-to-day management; staff with expertise in knowledge translation and adapting evidence; website developers; regional program managers, senior KT officers, web content leads, M&E specialists; communications officers, trainers; research assistants, local admin staff, interns.
Tools: Computers and monitors. Website domain fee and management software. Meeting platforms (Zoom, MS Teams). Open-source productivity suites. Secure online document sharing.
Contracts: Translation/localization services. Branding development. Regional communications.
Capacity development: Funding for staff to attend training in knowledge translation and M&E.
Citizen engagement: Involvement in shaping country node priorities and local design of knowledge products.
Travel: For regional/global coordination meetings and feedback gatherings.

Mentorship and Train the Trainer Programs
People: Globally pooled, certified trainers and mentors (experts in evidence synthesis and translation); regional program director; senior mentors; staff for day-to-day operations; interdisciplinary trainers and mentors; website developers; content developers; research assistants; admin staff.
Tools: AI tool for training materials. Computers. Website domain fee and management software. Webinar/streaming software. Secure online document sharing.
Contracts: Language translation services
Capacity development: Funding for trainers and mentors to attend capacity-building workshops
Citizen engagement: Feedback on training materials, co-design of mentorship framework, pilot testing.
Travel: Travel for in-person training sessions and promotional events

Competency Frameworks for evidence synthesis production and knowledge translation
People: Evidence synthesis experts, curriculum designers/pedagogical experts, policy advisors, accreditation consultants, administration and assistants, monitoring and evaluation leads
Tools: Competency framework guide. Data management and sharing tools. Virtual meeting platforms.
Capacity development: Short courses on developing competency frameworks, webinars for faculty.
Citizen engagement: Limited engagement for feedback on frameworks
Travel: Travel for consultations and presentations

Global Evidence Synthesis Innovation Fund (GESIF)

People: Grants Fund Program Director (executive director). Deputy grant program manager/director. Grants program manager. Grant officers. Regional Coordinators (with multi-lingual ability). Fundraising Specialist. Finance Specialist. Accountant. Legal Advisor. Policy & Advocacy Experts (consultant). Communications & Outreach Specialist. IT/Data Experts. Innovation Specialist. Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Specialist. Procurement Officer. HR Officer.

Tools: Software license (Grant Management System (GMS) developer) Budgeting & Forecasting Tools Disbursement & Payment Platforms Document & Workflow Management

Contracts: Professional Auditor.

Publication and Promotion: Events and outreach

Capacity sharing monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) system

People: People to map/tap into MEL networks, independent consultants to review and validate progress and impacts, staff for day-to-day management, website developers, experts in evaluation.

Tools: MEL dashboard. Website domain fee and software. Meeting platforms (Zoom, MS Teams) Collaborative workspaces (Slack). Computer monitors for staff.

Contracts: Independent consultant for system validation:

Capacity development: Training in MEL frameworks and qualitative comparative analysis

Citizen engagement: User testing of dashboard usability and feedback sessions.

Travel: Travel for validation workshops and conferences

ANNEX

Impact-Effort Assessment of proposed solutions (First-Pass Prioritization)

The tables summarize the average impact and effort scores assigned to each of the 18 proposed solutions, based on individual ratings from 16 respondents during the first-pass prioritization exercise. Impact and Effort were rated on a scale of 1 (Low) to 10 (High).

Table 1: Average Impact Scores of Solutions

Rank	Solution	Average Impact Score
1	(vii) Mentorship and Train-the-Trainer Programs	8.31
2	(iii) ESIC Knowledge Hub	8.25
2	(xv) Global Evidence Synthesis Innovation Fund (GESIF)	8.25
4	(v) Global Federated Data Platform	8.13
5	(vi) Regional Collaborating Centers with Country Nodes	8.19
6	(ii) Knowledge Translation AI (KTai)	8.00
7	(xi) Continuous Professional Development	7.88
7	(xiv) Funders Forum	7.88
9	(x) Competency Frameworks	7.75
10	(xviii) Capacity Sharing Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL)	7.56
11	(xiii) Curriculum for UN NECD	7.50
12	(xii) Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)	7.44
13	(iv) Living Horizon and Environmental Scanning System	7.25
13	(xvi) ESIC Research Gateway	7.25
15	(ix) Evidence Synthesis Endorsement Board	6.94
15	(xvii) Consortia-Based Licensing Agreements	6.94
17	(i) ESIC Peer-to-Peer Forum	6.81
18	(viii) ESIC Synthesis Week	6.31

Note: Solutions with an average score of ≥ 7.5 were classified as high-impact. This threshold was determined by distribution spread and visual review of outliers.

Table 2: Average Effort Scores of Solutions

Rank	Solution	Average Effort Score
1	(viii) ESIC Synthesis Week	5.88
2	(x) Competency Frameworks	6.06
2	(xiii) Curriculum for UN NECD	6.06
2	(xiv) Funders Forum	6.06
5	(i) ESIC Peer-to-Peer Forum	6.31
6	(ix) Evidence Synthesis Endorsement Board	6.69
6	(xi) Continuous Professional Development	6.69
6	(xvi) ESIC Research Gateway	6.69
9	(vii) Mentorship and Train-the-Trainer Programs	6.94
9	(iii) ESIC Knowledge Hub	6.94
9	(xvii) Consortia-Based Licensing Agreements	6.94
12	(xviii) Capacity Sharing MEL System	7.00
13	(xv) Global Evidence Synthesis Innovation Fund (GESIF)	7.13
14	(v) Global Federated Data Platform	7.38
14	(xii) MOOCs	7.38
16	(iv) Living Horizon and Environmental Scanning System	7.69
16	(vi) Regional Collaborating Centers with Country Nodes	7.69
18	(ii) Knowledge Translation AI (KTai)	7.81

Note: Solutions with an average score of <7 were classified as Low Effort. This cut-off was selected based on the distribution of scores.

Impact-Effort Matrix

High impact

Low Effort ———————————————————————— **High Effort**

Low impact

(vii) Mentorship and-Train the Trainer Programs

(iii) ESIC Knowledge Hub

(xi) Continuous Professional Development

(xiv) Funders Forum

(x) Competency Frameworks

(xiii) Curricula for UN national evaluation capacity development (NECD)

(xv)Global Evidence Synthesis Innovation Fund (GESIF)

(v) Global Federated data platform

(vi) Regional collaborating centers with country nodes

(ii) Knowledge Translation AI (KTai)

(xviii) Capacity sharing monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) system

(xvi) ESIC Research Gateway

(ix) Evidence Synthesis Endorsement Board

(i) ESIC Peer-To-Peer Forum

(viii) ESIC Synthesis Week

(xvii) Consortia-based licensing agreements

(xii) Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)

(iv) Living horizon and environmental scanning system